

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 56

November 2009

No. 9



Calendar

Sat., Oct. 24	Pumpkin carving, basketball court, 1 pm (BYO pumpkin and carving tools)		mitting names for baby sitting/snow shoveling list (see p 3)
Sun., Oct. 25	<i>Rethink Afghanistan</i> , film & discussion, Town Hall, 7 pm	Mon., Nov. 9	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Mon., Oct. 26	Last weekly pickup of yard waste	Tues., Nov. 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Wed., Oct. 28	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Nursery School building, land use; Town Hall, 8 pm (see p 4)	Mon., Nov. 16	Archives Reception for Barbara Shidler, Town Hall, 7:30 (see p 7)
Fri., Oct. 30	Halloween Parade, 1:45 (see pp 3, 5); Spooky Woods, Porcupine Woods, 7 pm (see p 4)	Wed., Nov. 18	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 9 pm
Sat., Oct. 31	Trick or Treat night	Thurs., Nov. 19	Games & Tea, Town Hall, 1:30
Sun., Nov. 1	Tree walk, led by Town Arborist Phil Normandy, 1 pm (see p 3)	Fri., Nov. 20	Preview Party for GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 7–9 pm (see p 5)
Mon., Nov. 2	Monthly yard-waste pickup	Sat., Nov. 21	GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm (see p 5); Last weekly Farmers Market at Penn Place for the year
Wed., Nov. 4	Women's Club, presentation on finances, Keith Mayhew, Town Hall, 7:30 pm	Sun., Nov. 21	GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm (see p 5)
Thurs., Nov. 5	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Nov. 25	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Fri., Nov. 6	Film Society, <i>Wordplay</i> , Town Hall; crosswords, 6:45; pot luck, 7:15; film at 8 pm	Thurs., Nov. 26	Happy Thanksgiving; no trash collection until Monday
Sat., Nov. 7	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm; Deadline for sub-	Sat., Nov. 28	Silk Scarf Show, Town Hall (particulars later); Reunion of Garrett Park Elementary School alumni, GPES, 1 to 4 pm (p 5)

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Wordplay

Your reporter missed the October Town Council meeting; she forgot to put the date on her calendar.

She has now put the dates of all subsequent Council meetings on her calendar.

Meanwhile, after a read-through of notes she got from Mayor Keller and a check of weather.com, she writes her report.

As she walked beneath a waning crescent moon on a cloudy evening (49 degrees Fahrenheit), your reporter looked forward to meeting Jennifer Beasley, the reporter who wrote a nice story in this month's *Gazette* about your reporter's house, which used to be owned by Munro Leaf, author of *Ferdinand the Bull*. Beasley was at the Council meeting, covering it for her paper.

The room was a hive of activity—full representation of the Council, plus Jennifer, Town Administrator Ted Pratt, and several residents.

Mayor Keller opened by asking the Council, if time permitted, to go into executive session at the end of the meeting in order to consider the acquisition of real property. Since the meeting in fact went quite late (11:10), the Council was unable to do this.

He then announced that Gene Brantly will be unable to continue as chair of the Land Use Task Force (the Mayor thanked Gene for his service). The Council unanimously voted to appoint Suzanne Grefsheim to replace him.

Tara Flynn reported that the Garrett Park Nursery School is wrapping up negotiations with County Parks for temporary use of the Ken-Gar building during the 2010/2011 school year. A little later in the meeting, Mayor Keller and Councilmember Wegner added that the problem of how to pay for Nursery School utilities has been resolved; utilities will be "sub-metered" to the school, which will pay only for actual usage. We continue to move nicely along on whether to accept the transfer of the building from the Parks Department.

Henri Keller announced that the November 6 Film Society presentation will be *Wordplay*.

By the time this *Bugle* comes out, the Mayor will already have offered testimony on the White Flint Sector Plan at the October 20 County Council hearing. He will say that while we support the Plan's general outline—a mixed-use, walkable, environmentally sustainable community—the town worries about how dense development, and related traffic, will be. We'll urge "an absolute reduction in the permissible density ... and a balance in density."

Councilmember Schulp reported that most of the fall pruning has been completed. There's a diseased sugar maple on Kenilworth, which will be removed. He'll be calling a meeting of the Arboretum Committee soon, to select a chair and begin planning spring planting.

Councilmember Wegner is unhappy with the quality of repairs the SHA recently completed on Strathmore between Clermont and Montrose; the town will request an on-site meeting with them.

Some minor repairs to Penn Place and to the maintenance building have now, reported Councilmember Mandel, been completed.

Last month, the chair of the Parks Committee made an excellent case for the purchase of new playground equipment for Cambria Park. This month, the Council passed unanimously a motion that we make available \$7,000 (the final cost will be \$12,000) toward the purchase of equipment.

The problem involving 11110 Rokeby, where retaining walls and entry posts have been built in the town right of way, seems to have been resolved. The town administrator and Maintenance Supervisor Frost met on site with the owner, who will remove the blocks of the retaining wall. The owner would like, however, to leave the footings, for landscaping and for erosion control, and the town is fine with this. A motion to authorize reconstruction in this manner passed unanimously.

A rather confusing exchange about an upcoming Land Use Task Force report ensued. Essentially, the group is asking for guidance from the Council as to how precise our ordinance should be in regard to particular exemptions (and how closely our exemptions should follow those of the county); more broadly, it is asking the Council to clarify whether it wants the LUTF report to be detailed and technical, or to be broad and general.

Bob Reinhardt pointed out, for instance, that if the town wants significant precision, the task force may need more funding for legal and professional assistance. There will probably be more consideration of this issue at the Council Workshop on October 26.

The meeting now began to wind down. With a yawn and a neighborly grin, your reporter waved goodnight to her fellow Garrett Parkers, and everyone went home to a well-deserved rest.

Margaret Soltan

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:
President: Chris Strong
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Treasurer: Todd Harris
Secretary: Lara Hines
Members at large: Leslie Bethke-Pope, Mike Grieb, Kathryn Mitchell

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$15 (first class) or \$13 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Halloween Parade: The Garrett Park Elementary School’s annual Halloween Parade steps off from the school at 1:45 pm on Friday, October 30. The theme this year is “Harry Potter.” In order to protect the marchers, Kenilworth and Montrose from Strathmore to Oxford will be closed to vehicular traffic from 1:20 pm until the parade is concluded, probably by 2:15 pm. Oxford between Kenilworth and Montrose will also be closed. Temporary “No Parking” zones will also be set up along the parade route. If you plan to watch the parade, please walk, if at all possible, so that congestion in the area can be kept to a minimum. Residents who live on the streets to be closed should plan accordingly.

Leaf Removal: Autumn is fast upon us, and the leaves are starting to fall. As before, Bethke Landscaping is removing leaves for the town, starting the week of October 12 and continuing until the end of the year. Each street will be cleared once every week, as early in the week as possible (rain will delay collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the curb. Please remove sticks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery. Please do not shred the leaves or put out grass clippings. If you have any problems, call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Trash Collection after Holidays: The following holidays are observed by our trash contractor: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. If a Monday is missed, recycling is collected on Wednesday, trash is collected on Thursday, and yard waste will be collected on the next Monday. Missed Thursday trash will be collected on the following Monday.

Yard Waste Removal: Remember, November through February yard waste will be collected the first Monday of each month only. That dependable harbinger of spring, weekly collection, will resume in March.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:
www.garrettpark-md.gov

Children and Leaves: Please warn your children not to play in the leaves piled along the street for removal. There is considerable risk of being hit by a car, even on Garrett Park’s quiet streets. If you are driving near a pile of leaves, treat it as you would a ball rolling into the street. Assume a child is nearby and likely to run into the street.

Security at Home: Most of you are aware of the continued problem with robberies from cars late at night. Many of the cars have been unlocked. I want to reiterate that you should always keep your doors locked. Garrett Park is happily a very safe place, but we are part of a larger urban environment, and hundreds of strangers pass through our town each day.

FY 2009 Financial Statements: The audit for the last financial year, July 2008–June 2009, has been completed. The town continues to be in sound financial condition. Copies of the statements will be posted on the Web site and are available from the Town Office.

Ted Pratt,
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Jobs List

We need names for the snow shovel and baby-sitting list for the winter months. If anyone 13 years or older would like to be put on this list, please call Mary Moyer and leave a name, age, phone number, and what you want to do by November 7. Maybe we will get some real snow this year! Your names will be published in the next *Bugle*. If you wish to rake leaves, call the Town Office (301-933-7488) and ask for Ms. Henley.

Annual Tree Walk

To all town residents and tree lovers, the Arboretum Committee would like to extend a warm invitation to our annual tree walk on Sunday, November 1, at 1 pm, led by our Town Arborist, Phil Normandy (meet at Penn Place). The tree walk allows folks to gain insight to the strategy and challenges of tending to our flourishing canopy. Satellite images of our town show a distinct green footprint in stark contrast with our immediate neighbors (and very similar, we think, to the way it was when Hobbits resided here). Refreshments will be served at the tree walk, and we hope to see you there!

The Arboretum Committee is very happy to welcome Councilman Phil Schulp as its liaison, as Phil has infused the committee with renewed vigor. In other news, Mathew Nau has stepped down as Chairman (his resignation was accepted on condition that he stay on the committee), and his replacement will be discussed at our next meeting.

Pat Keating

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Citizens Association News

September meeting report. Resident and author Paul Dickson (*Sputnik: The Shock of the Century*, *The Bonus Army: An American Epic*, and numerous other books) spoke at the September Garrett Park Citizens Association meeting. While focusing on his current project, a new biography about baseball’s legendary owner Bill Veeck, Mr. Dickson gave fascinating insight into his research process and into baseball’s historical politics of race and economics. Dickson, the author of more than 45 nonfiction books, shared delightful anecdotes about people ranging from famous and infamous baseball players, U.S. presidents, world leaders, and Hollywood celebrities. The evening was well attended, and the GPCA is grateful for Mr. Dickson’s time and energy.

Newcomers Reception. On October 4 the GPCA extended a welcome to new Garrett Park families. Representatives from various clubs around town joined us to give new residents an overview of what the town has to offer. Thank you to all who helped out.

Upcoming

Please join us at 8 pm on October 28 in the Town Hall to get updates on two very important topics to our town, the Nursery School and the Land Use Task Force.

Nursery School Update. In July, the Maryland–National Capital Parks and Planning Commission voted to transfer the Garrett Park Estates activity building (also known as the Nursery School building or Garrett Park Community Center) to the town of Garrett Park. The Town Council is going to decide whether to accept the transfer in the next few weeks or months. If it proceeds, the town would hold title to the land so long as the land was being used for recreational-type purposes. If it ceased being used for such purposes, at the Commission’s option, title would revert to the Commission. The Nursery School has requested a lease from the town. The Nursery School has proposed that in exchange for a no- or low-rent long-term lease, the Nursery School would take responsibility for paying for necessary repairs and ongoing operational costs related to the building.

Land Use Discussion. Members of the Land Use Task Force (LUTF) will provide a brief overview of the progress the LUTF has made to date and the future process, followed by resident input and discussion. The Citizens Association will moderate a discussion with residents and the Task Force with a primary focus on getting citizen input.

The open discussion will focus on general issues and concerns, as well as individual experiences, with town land use regulations and the town’s permit process (both good and bad). The objective is to listen to residents’ desires and concerns about land use in Garrett Park now and in the future, and to hear residents’ suggestions on how to meet those goals.

So if you are concerned about expanding your home, adding a bay window or screened porch, buying or selling GP property, or demolition/ replacement of older homes, please come share your opinion about Garrett Park’s future land use on October 28. An important component in the LUTF process is your feedback.


Spooky Woods. At 7 pm on Friday, October 30, the GPCA’s annual Spooky Woods will kick off in Porcupine Woods. Kids of all ages are invited to join us to share scares and laughs at this Garrett Park tradition. Please join us and don’t forget your flashlights.

Volunteer ghouls are needed that day to set up and during the event to act in “haunted stations.” We will provide power. To help, please contact Lara Hines by e-mail at lhines@lynxinvestment.com or by telephone at 202-271-2542.

Garrett Park Listserv. To join this electronic forum, which allows neighbors to communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join.

Questions or comments for the Citizens Association? If so, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail Chris Strong.

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Pat Obrimski

Pat Obrimski passed away September 20 at Suburban Hospital; a Mass of Christian burial was said at Holy Cross Church on September 25. Born in Mississippi, Pat lived for a while in Florida while her dad was serving abroad during World War II. Her parents were the late General and Mrs. John A. O'Keefe. She grew up in Bethesda, attending Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School, Immaculata High School in DC, and Chestnut Hill College outside Philadelphia. In the summer of 1979, she and her husband Frank moved from Potomac to the house on Cambria Avenue formerly owned by Pat and Ray Hart.

From the late 70's to early 90's she worked at the Library of Congress in the Talking Books for the Blind program. She became the Director of the program's recording studio at the Library.

Her daughters Margaret and Sharon attended Holy Cross Elementary, Tilden Middle, and Woodward/WJ High Schools. Her seven grandchildren include Sharon "Ronnie" Bonacorda, a Holy Cross ES graduate currently attending Walter Johnson.

She enjoyed the town tennis court next to the pool and summers in Ocean City with her children. She loved the azaleas and dogwoods in the spring, the vivid colors of the trees in our yard and the park in fall, and the view of the creek and the railroad during the winter. The trees and shrubs included some the Harts had planted, some we planted, and some volunteers that we protected from the deer.

Frank Obrimski

GPNS Craft Fair

The Garrett Park Nursery School will hold its 43rd annual craft fair the weekend before Thanksgiving. All Garrett Park residents are invited to join us for the Preview Party on Friday, November 20, from 7 to 9 pm at Town Hall. At the Preview Party, town residents and nursery school alumni will have the first opportunity to view the work of more than 30 crafters while enjoying wine, beer, and appetizers. They will also have the chance to bid on items like theater tickets, restaurant gift certificates, jewelry, and artwork at our silent auction. For Redskins fans, come bid on a jersey signed by quarterback Jason Campbell. For Jon Stewart fans, come bid on tickets to a taping of the Daily Show in New York City. This year, all proceeds from the silent auction will go in our "Save Our School" fund, designated for renovations to the community center, which is our home. The craft fair will be open to the general public on Saturday, November 21, and Sunday, November 22, from 10 am to 5 pm. Craft items for sale will include toys, jewelry, clothing, pottery, fresh wreaths, stained glass, holiday ornaments, and folk art.

Richard E. Stevens

Former Garrett Parker Richard E. Stevens died Sunday, September 27, in Paradise, California. Born in Washington D.C. on October 30, 1932, and raised in Garrett Park, Richard was the son of the late Ernest Dorsey and Lucile (Gibson) Stevens.

Stevens graduated with a B.S. from Washington College and earned an MS from Penn State and a PhD from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, specializing in scanning electron microscopy. An expert microscopist and long-time member of the American Chemical Society, his interests included genealogy, railroad history, flute playing, classical music, and sharing laughter with family and friends. He loved nature and travel, and especially enjoyed cross-country rail trips. Richard was the beloved husband of Melissa (Harris) Stevens. Richard is survived by his three children, Jean Palmateer (of Norwood, Massachusetts), Richard Stevens, Jr. (of Rochester, New York), Christina Johncox (of Penfield, New York), their mother, Judith (Sympson) Gilvey (of High Shoals, Georgia), and 4 grandchildren.

Richard will be remembered by family and friends on both coasts and in cities where he lived, including Boulder; Rochester; Salt Lake City; Somerville, New Jersey; Schenectady, New York; Oak Park, Illinois; and Mill Valley, California.

Any gifts in his honor can be made to the charity of your choice.

GPES

Ready for the Halloween parade on Friday, October 30? Traffic will not be allowed on south Kenilworth and Montrose Avenues and on Oxford Street from 1:20 until approximately 2:15 pm; parking will not be allowed on Oxford Street and Shelley Court all day. This is to allow for safe passage of over 500 students and teachers for the parade, which will start in the school parking lot around 1:45 pm. The parade route is Oxford Street to Shelley Court and then back again. Parties will be held in the individual schools afterwards. If it is raining, forget the parade.

Preparations for the reunion of GPES alumni 21 years of age and older (scheduled for Saturday, November 28) are proceeding nicely. We're getting responses to the invitation and the survey from all over. If you haven't sent the hand-delivered ones on to your ex-student, please do so. Even if your child can't come, we would like to get the survey back to start work on another history book. Thanks very much.

Mary Moyer

Remember your loved ones with a fine oil or pastel portrait by Robert LeMar.

For an example of Robert's work, please see a photo of his portrait of the President on the GP bulletin board.

301-962-7451 | rleamar@verizon.net | www.rleamar.com/portraits

White Flint Plan

By the time you read this letter, the plan for the White Flint sector—proposing the most important changes to our community for decades to come—will be before the County Council. It’s not too late to put your views before the Council, however. Sample letters and talking points, covering both PTA issues and topics of concern to Garrett Park residents, are available on the GP mail list. Are you interested in the size of the development? Ensuring that local schools are uncrowded and strong? Encouraging provision of more public transportation? Ensuring that public facilities are in place before later stages of the development are built? If so, I encourage you to consider these materials, and then personalize them or write your own letters based on them.

Letters matter to our Council. These will be accepted until October 30. Many thanks.

Liz King

Art at Penn Place

Garrett Park artist **Les Henig**, exhibiting until November 8, uses photography to create individualized portrait studies, specializing in searching for the “inner essence” of his subjects rather than merely recording the exterior. With over 35 years of experience, Les is an “evolutionary photographer.” Having made the transition from film to a fully digital workflow, he has found a new freedom of expression in transferring his ideas from mind to paper. His work has been recognized on both local and national levels.

Beginning November 8, watercolor painter **Susan St. George** will exhibit her paintings in the Penn Place space. Susan graduated from George Mason University with a degree in fine art and began painting in earnest in 1999. She focuses on painting buildings: schools and churches in the Washington metropolitan area. Her painting technique involves controlling the medium while developing each work from light to dark. A vibrant mix of all colors is dropped into a carefully wetted area to produce lively hues that are pleasing to the eye. Susan teaches watercolor classes featuring a very structured step by step process; she lives in Kensington.

The following is the full schedule for this year’s Penn Place exhibitions:

Date	Artist	Medium
Oct. 4–Nov. 8	Les Henig	Photography
Nov. 8–Dec. 13	Susan St. George	Watercolor
Dec. 13–Jan. 17	Mary Sollway	Ink
Jan. 17–Feb. 21	Beth Altman	Photography
Feb. 21–Mar. 28	Robert LeMar	Oil
Mar. 28–May 2	Carol Vorosmarti	Watercolor
May 2–June 6	Suzi Gifford	Quilts/mixed
June 6–July 31	Sandra Cepaitis, Cathy Hirsh	Watercolor
July 31–Aug. 7	Gallery dark for repairs	
Aug. 7–Sept. 17	Marilyn Witkowski	Acrylic

The Never-Ending Story

To be blunt, the current volunteer effort to prepare and publish the Garrett Park Directory is not working as it should.

We owe our thanks to the volunteers who have been working on the directory. They have had to overcome many obstacles, including getting information from White Flint and Garrett Park Estates. Still, the town should be able to publish a directory in a more timely fashion.

The original goal was to publish the directory every couple of years. But it has been five years since the last directory was distributed. This past spring, it was publicly announced that the directory was being finalized, with distribution targeted for no later than mid-summer. Now it is fall, and neither the officers of the Women’s Club nor the Citizens Association are able to confirm when the directory will be distributed.

What is to be done? In the short term, the current volunteer effort should continue, and the directory finalized and distributed as expeditiously as possible (certainly before year’s end). In the long term, I recommend that the town’s staff take over the preparation and publication of the directory. If nothing else, the data base would be centralized and we could hold the staff accountable for the timely production of the directory.

Ken Schwartz

Give the Gift of GIVES

Do you have a favorite aunt, a close friend, a teacher who inspired your child? Here is an idea for simplifying your life during the holiday season and doing some good where it most counts. The GIVES committee is offering gift cards that tell recipients that donations have been made in their names to the two worthy nonprofits supported by GIVES: the *American Friends Service Committee* and *Thrive DC*, the local program for homeless families and individuals.

Most of us have at least several names on our gift list who truly don’t need any more things, except the acknowledgement of how much they mean to us. A GIVES gift card lets them know we honor them. At the same time, it provides welcome recognition for two exceptional charitable organizations. Because GIVES will make the donation, the purchaser will not be plagued with requests for further contributions. The GIVES card is available in \$5 increments, for as much as you care to spend. The exact amount of the contribution is not listed on the card.

Your gift card purchase will come with a receipt and will be 100-percent tax deductible. The cards will be available at the November 7 GIVES collection at the Post Office. Further information can be obtained by calling Karen Anderson or Rana Koll-Mandel.

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Garrett Park was well represented in the October 7 issue of the *Gazette*, which had three articles about people in our town. Elizabeth Henley and her Games and Tea program were showcased in an article about the senior representatives of the town. In another article, Elizabeth's mom, Lillian Henley, recalled the family's leftward political leanings; the article described townspeople who had FBI files because of their politics. Finally, *Ferdinand the Bull* inspired an article about his author, Munro Leaf, who used to live in Garrett Park. The current owners of the Leaf house, Karol and Margaret Soltan, have paid homage to Ferdinand by having two "topiary" bulls in their front yard.
- ♪ Several residents were unhappy that there was no article about the Attic in the Street sale in the October *Bugle* (although it was on the calendar) and no poster in Penn Place. Not everyone in town goes online daily to the town Web site to get clued in to current events! Maybe next year there will be a short piece in the *Bugle*. The sale went on this year despite the weather—which was slightly wet.
- ♪ Further dampening the event was an accident between a bike-riding teenager and a van on Strathmore, which had emergency vehicles racing to the scene. It was frightening but fortunately not serious. The boy's mother, Celia Peacock, reported that her son was fine, though he suffered a black eye and other bumps and bruises. She extends her thanks to our supportive community for all the help after the accident.
- ♪ The holiday season stamps are ready for your purchase at the Post Office. Fortunately, our Post Office branch is not on the list of those slated for closing (this time).
- ♪ On Friday, October 9, a tree played havoc with power on Kenilworth Avenue for a time. Part of a big tree came down on a car parked in front of the Huffmans' (with one son and a

friend escaping just in time) and in the process ripped the wires off the poles in front of three houses, and even took out the front attic siding of the residence at 10920. Power was back on by 7 pm.

- ♪ Want to get rid of leftover latex paint? Dry it up by removing the lid in a safe, well-ventilated place. Cans with ¼ inch or less of paint will dry out in a few days. For cans with more than that, add mulch, cat litter, or waste paint hardener to dry out the residue. Then throw the cans away with your trash collection.
- ♪ We were saddened by the death of long-time Garrett Park resident Donal McLaughlin on Sunday, September 27. His son Brian reports that the family has launched a Web site, www.donalmclaughlin.org, to collect and archive stories, remembrances, photos, and memorabilia celebrating and documenting Donal's long life. Brian is also writing an account of his father's life for the site, including the central role of his Garrett Park community, which we hope to publish in a future *Bugle*. Initial items on the Web site are copies of Donal's obituaries in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times*, as well as the program from his memorial service at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Church. If you have questions, comments, or tidbits concerning Donal or his Web site, please contact his son Brian by e-mailing info@donalmclaughlin.org.

Archives Reception

Join your neighbors to say thank you to Barbara Shidler, who is retiring as archivist of the town. On Monday, November 16, at 7:30 pm, there will be a reception at the Town Hall to celebrate her contributions. The collection of documents, photos, and other materials representing our conserved past has been Barbara's passion.

If you share that interest and wish to volunteer to work on projects related to the archives, please call the Town Office.

Marian Green

Green Again

We have an anonymous donor for this and next month's green. It is an honor to the wildlife of Garrett Park. (I wonder if that includes the human variety?) Anyway, thank you very much. We are now solvent for the green banner until January 2011. Thank you all!

Remember that there are Citizens Association dues for each family living in Garrett Park. Yearly dues are \$20 per family or \$10 per individual and can be sent to Box 456. Envelopes will be sent out again this year in January to make it easier for you to pay. Money is running tight for the Citizens Association, so anything you can do to help will be appreciated.

Mary Moyer



Come visit the antiques shop on Kensington's Antique Row owned by your Garrett Park neighbor, Margaret Goldsborough. This is recycling at its very best: practical, well made furniture & decorative pieces that have stood the test of time.

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ANTIQUES & DECORATIVE ARTS
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LOOK FOR "PATRIOT MAN" BY THE FRONT DOOR

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Letter from the Mayor

I would like to bring you up to date on three important initiatives, each of which will have importance in Garrett Park for many years. The potential town acquisition of the Community Center (also known as the Garrett Park Estates Park Activity Building, and the home of the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School for over a half-century) cleared another hurdle with the favorable resolution of the “utility separation” issue. The matter is complex, but suffice it to say that, in connection with rebuilding utility service for the new Garrett Park Elementary School, the Nursery School will be assured of continued utility service without having to contribute to the considerable cost of installation of the new service. Utilities will be “sub-metered” to the Nursery School and will not involve costs beyond those reflecting the actual usage at the building. Also moving apace are other steps preparatory to the Town Council’s consideration of whether to accept the proffered transfer of the building from the Montgomery County Parks Department.

By the time you read this, the town will have offered testimony to the County Council on the Planning Commission’s proposed White Flint Sector Plan. The White Flint proposal (www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/white-flint/documents/WhiteFlintPlanningBoarddraftweboptimized.pdf—the link is on the town Web site) is complex and will have far-reaching effects on adjoining neighborhoods for years to come. We have no quarrel with the broad goals of the plan: to “create [a] thriving, diverse mixed use center with highest intensity closest to Metro,” to “promote sustainable development,” and other laudable aims. However, we also believe, quite strongly, that the details of the plan do not provide adequate guarantees that those goals will be met in the actual build-out. Among other concerns are questions about the adequacy of financing mechanisms, transportation planning, ecological sustainability, and (of most immediate interest to Garrett Park) traffic impacts on Strathmore Avenue. The focus of our testimony is on the overall density of the permitted development envisioned for the sector as a whole; many of the surrounding residents’ concerns flow directly

from the high level of density permissible under the proposed Sector Plan. We recognize that density in the immediate vicinity of the White Flint Metro station is desirable for the critical mass necessary to sustain many of the attractive features of a revitalized White Flint. However, higher overall density, and especially density that is spread more broadly than the acknowledged zone of walking distance from Metro, will undermine the success of the sector’s core goals of livability and attractiveness, as well as adversely impact surrounding established communities.

For more background information about either of these matters—Community Center acquisition/Nursery School and White Flint Sector Plan—as well as news on developments between issues of the *Bugle*, please visit the town Web site, www.garrettpark-md.gov, and click on the individual pages dedicated to White Flint and the Community Center.

Next, the Land Use Task Force: this was created by the Town Council in January of this year and has been working diligently on a number of issues relating to the town’s existing land use ordinance and the potential for additions or changes to that law. As the original chair of the group, Gene Brantly got the effort off to a fitting start by emphasizing the desirability of consensus. Gene recently tendered his resignation owing to the press of work and other demands, and Suzanne Grefsheim has stepped in to take over leadership of the Task Force. We thank Gene for his dedication, and Suzanne for her commitment to the town through this important undertaking. Committees of the Task Force have already completed valuable research—including data on the existing pattern of land use in town—that will not only inform the remainder of the Task Force work but will prove invaluable as future generations look back at the development of the town over time.

The Task Force has requested the Town Council to provide assistance in two areas: a specific legal question and general guidance about the content of the group’s final report and recommendations to the Council. As the Task Force carries on its valuable work on this issue of central importance to the future of the town, it is important that we maintain a civil tone that is respectful of the effort that is being invested, regardless of individual views on specific elements.

Finally, my thanks to all the Garrett Parkers who came together, quite spontaneously and in record time, to devise a most fitting installation in honor of Art Heyman (featured in the October 14 issue of the *Gazette*). If you haven’t already seen it, stroll by the old town tennis court/informal dog play area on Cambria, or check www.gazette.net/stories/10142009/kensnew201531_32526.shtml for a pleasant and jovial reminder of the town’s sense of community.

Chris Keller

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